Prayer

10. Jabez Prayer

I Chronicles 4:10 "And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested."

Meaning: Only two verses in the Bible talk of Jabez. One verse says he "was more honourable than his brethren" (I Chronicles 4:9), and the other verse (I Chronicles 4:10) tells us of his prayer to God. Jabez prayed for four things, all of them being for himself. Praying for self is not selfish, but necessary. It was Apostle Paul who told Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself" (I Timothy 4:16). It is only when we are clean, holy, and right that we can help others to be clean, holy, and right.

Application: Jabez requested four different things. First, he said "Bless me indeed." That would be to ask for God's blessing on your life, both physically and spiritually. Then Jabez asked God to enlarge his coast. Here we need to ask God to give us more influence and opportunity for service. Thirdly, Jabez asked that God's hand would be with him. This is praying for God's hand to be on us for good. We should want His hand of protection, correction, and direction. Lastly, Jabez asked God to keep him from evil. Though we should ask to be kept from physical harm, it is most important to be kept from sin that will hurt us spiritually.

Other Verses for Study: Ezra 8:21-23; Nehemiah 5:19; Psalm 35:1-4; 40:1-5; Matthew 6:5-13

1. What did Paul tell Timothy? _____

2. What is meant by asking God to enlarge our coasts?

_____

3. We should want God's hand of _____, _____, and _____.

"As long as they live should Christians pray, for only while they pray do they truly live."